THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The total number of registered motor vehicles in Delhi has increased from 3.16 lakhs as on 31.3.1975 to 24.32 lakhs as on 31.3.1995, showing an almost eight fold increase.

(b) The number of registered motor vehicles in major metropolis including Ahmedabad during the last two decades is given in the Table below:

| As on 31st March | Delhi | Bombay | Calcutta | Madras | Ahmedabad |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | (Figures in lakhs) |
| 1975 | 2.35 | 2.21 | 1.26 | 0.48 | 0.57 |
| 1985 | 8.41 | 4.41 | 3.11 | 1.66 | 1.77 |
| 1994 | 22.39 | 6.08 | 5.45 | 6.89 | 4.78 |

(c) The principal health effects of the major vehicular pollutants such as oxides of nitrogen and suspended particulate matter are respiratory diseases and increased susceptibility to infection. Carbon monoxide can effect neuro-behavioural functions and present a risk to the foetus. Lead particulates may impair the normal intellectual development and learning ability in children. Some of the volatile organic constituents such as benzene from automotive fuels are carcinogenic.

(d) The vehicular pollution load in Delhi and Ahmedabad has been estimated to be 1319.96 tonnes per day and 325.13 tonnes per day respectively.

**Denial of Visas to Pilgrims by Pakistan**

*47. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that until 1992 all pilgrim lists consisting of both, Keshdharis and Monas recommended by DSGMC were given visas by Pakistan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in 1993, 1994 and 1995 all Monas recommended by DSGMC were denied visas; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government taken to make Pakistan see reason?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government recommend to the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi lists of Indian pilgrims, including those of Delhi Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, desirous of visiting Sikh gurudwaras located in Pakistan under the bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, 1974.

Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi is not required to communicate to Government detailed information regarding the number of visas granted of rejected to Indian nationals for visits to gurudwaras in Pakistan. Government's attention, however, has been drawn to reports that in recent times Keshdharis and Monas have been refused visas by Pakistan for visiting gurudwaras under the Protocol.

On various pretexts in the recent years Pakistan has been resiling from its commitments under the protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines. Pakistan's negative approach in this regard hurts the sentiments and devotion of the various communities in the two countries for the sacred and historic shrines in the other and adversely affects people-to-people contacts between India and Pakistan.

(c) Government have urged Pakistan to fulfil its commitments under the hido-Pak Protocol on Religious Shrines, 1974 and have also specifically proposed that the

Sub-Commission IV of the Indo-Pak Joint Commission, which deals with visa related matter be reconvened.

**Allocation of Natural Gas to Rajasthan**

*48. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government have sought bulk allocation of 20 million cubic metres of natural gas per day for setting up various gas based projects;

(b) whether it is a fact that bulk allocation from the existing HBJ gas pipeline had been made to other States but State of Rajasthan had been denied its share; and

(c) if so, what are the main demands of Rajasthan and by when the Central Government are expected to make the allocation of gas to Rajasthan for establishing new industries for economic and social uplift of desert State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. An allocation of 3.74 MMSCMD has been made for the fertiliser plant at Gadepan, the power plant of NTPC at Anta and Samcor Glass, Kota.

(c) The Rajasthan Government have asked for 20 MMSCMD of gas for power plants, fertiliser and methanol projects, LPG extraction, Petrochemical project and ceramic industries. The gas projected to be available along the HBJ pipeline is fully allocated and it is not feasible to consider additional allocation of gas at present.

**New Railway Zonal Office in Madhya Pradesh**

*49. SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the place of the proposed new railway zonal office in Madhya Pradesh has since been decided; and

(b) if so, its name and if not, by when the decision would be arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The study group, which had been constituted for examining the existing geographical distribution of zones and divisions in the wake of Project Unigauge and the construction of Konkan Railway, has suggested a need for its rationalisation. This exercise may also entail the creation of some new zones and divisions.

Further processing for formulation of proposals and other related nutters is being undertaken.

**Regaining the U.N. membership by Yugoslavia**

*50. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Yugoslavia has recently sought India's help for its regaining the U.N. membership; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Implementation of policies Adopted at the SAARC Summit**

*51. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits accrued to India as a result of the recent SAARC Summit; and

(b) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken to implement the consensus arrived at the Summit?